

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
February 11, 2008  
7:00 P.M.**

**MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING**

**PRESENT:**           COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS  
                          COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.  
                          COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH  
                          COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH  
                          MAYOR GRAHAM

**ALSO PRESENT:**   CITY MANAGER MARY M. CORRIVEAU

**Executive session**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH TO MOVE INTO  
EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A  
PARTICULAR CITY EMPLOYEE. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL  
MEMBER BURNS AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.**

Council moved into executive session at 8:33 p.m.

Council reconvened at 9:07 p.m.

**Presentations**

Second Sheet of Ice – Representatives from the Watertown Hockey Association, Figure Skating Club and Watertown Sports Ventures presented to Council their desire to have a second sheet of ice constructed.

**Joe Fedorco**, Watertown Hockey Assoc., addressed Council highlighting the needs for an additional sheet of ice. He added that an addition is essential to the growth of hockey and figure skating organizations in the City.

Mr. Fedorco proposed several benefits to the community that a second sheet of ice would bring including an expansion of ice programs and drawing new local and regional users. He also stated that such a venture is viable and listed several other similarly sized communities in Northern New York that have two sheets of ice.

**Howard Kelly**, Director of the Capital Corridor, stated that bringing a second sheet of ice would be a huge economic booster for the area and gave his support to an effort such as this.

**Peter Schmidt**, Executive Director of the YMCA, noted that a recent study done on childhood obesity found a link to increased BMI during the months of January through May due to a lack of opportunities to be active. He stated that a second sheet of ice would provide more opportunities for children to participate in sports and other activities.

**Debra Wojcicki**, Figure Skating Club of Watertown, commented that a second sheet of ice would enable more figure skating shows to be held in Watertown thus bringing more revenue into the City.

Mayor Graham asked what hours are available to these organizations for practice time.

Jamie St. Croix, Parks and Recreation, said that children's leagues rent mostly prime time hours while adult leagues are on the ice as late as 10 p.m. On the weekends, he stated, practice may start as early as 7:30 a.m.

**Blair Harff**, Watertown Hockey Association, said that not just one constituency would benefit from an additional sheet of ice since children through adult ages participate in ice programs.

Council Member Butler asked how many other communities use the ice arena.

Mr. St. Croix replied that Alexandria Bay and Clayton hockey teams use the arena because it opens earlier than the ones in their municipalities.

Council Member Clough commented that the burden of a new sheet of ice should not be placed on the City taxpayers since the Fairgrounds is a regional facility. He added that he is not against it but he believes that people would rather have work done on their streets than on a new ice rink.

Council Member Butler agreed that it should be a regional initiative but that if our community does not act on it another municipality will. He added that it is important to build a solid infrastructure for our young people.

Council Member Smith said that a second sheet of ice is something the City should move toward and hopefully the County and/or Town could participate.

Council and staff continued to discuss this issue.

**Citibus Survey Results, Service Expansion** – Eugene P. Hayes, Superintendent of Public Works and Kathy Webster, Transit Supervisor

Mr. Hayes presented to Council the results of a survey completed by approximately 170 passengers. He suggested extending the routes as listed in the presentation from October, 2007.

Mayor Graham asked if the expansion would reach BOCES.

Mrs. Corriveau noted that BOCES is beyond the Towne Center.

Mayor Graham stated that BOCES makes sense because it is an educational facility.

Ms. Webster stated that the buses would run out to BOCES three times a day.

Council Member Burns asked what the current bus route is on that portion of Arsenal Street.

Ms. Webster said the bus goes to the mall then across to the Hannaford Plaza and back.

Mr. Hayes told Council that the bus routes cannot expand without adding a bus. He noted that six or more stops would be added to the routes as well.

Mrs. Corriveau said the expansion plans look at going to Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Target and Kohl's.

Ms. Webster noted that the expansion would add approximately 20 minutes to the current 40 minutes bus routes.

Mayor Graham commented that the bus system exists to serve those who need it and where a person needs to go does not always conform to the boundaries of the City. He added that it is not fair to build a second sheet of ice but to tell people with no cars they cannot go to the stores they wish to go.

Council Member Clough replied that that is not what is being said.

Council Member Burns said that it is important to meet the needs of constituents and to see what the staff recommendation is for the bus route expansion.

Council Member Butler said this is an opportunity for the City to make a real positive impact for those who need it most.

Mr. Hayes said expansion on outer Arsenal Street is the easiest and most cost effective and noted that it will still take approximately 18 months to come to fruition even if decided on tonight.

Ms. Webster reminded Council that last year 135,000 people rode the CitiBus and 6,000 took Paratransit. She explained the bus route schedule to Council and said that with the extension, the five current routes would be groomed to make them four routes.

Council Member Burns suggested getting the process started now, as did Council Members Butler, Clough, and Smith and Mayor Graham.

Street Selection – Eugene P. Hayes, Superintendent of Public Works

Council Member Clough asked how the City can accomplish more than what is being done now. He added that street repair is one of the biggest issues.

Mr. Hayes told Council that how a street is originally built has a huge impact on its longevity.

Council Member Smith remarked that Gotham Street was rebuilt 20 years ago and Coffeen Street was rebuilt six years ago but the later already has some spots of failure. He questioned what the difference is in the composition of the streets.

Mr. Hayes told Council that Coffeen Street was designed by New York State and that the types of binder and asphalt used are very important to the life of a road.

Council Member Clough suggested either using less CHIPS money or start doing streets from top to bottom, even though it would be more expensive.

Council Member Smith said perhaps smaller streets should be done in concrete.

Mr. Hayes commented that the money should be spent on heavily trafficked areas.

Kurt Hauk, City Engineer, told Council that maintenance also extends the life of streets when done in proper sequence.

Council Member Clough said the ultimate goal is to have more money put in the budget for street work and repair.

Mrs. Corriveau told Council that the projected costs for top to bottom work on Central Street is \$2.2 million.

City Sidewalk Project Report – Kurt Hauk, City Engineer and Jeffrey Hammond, Engineering Technician

Mr. Hauk presented to Council a report focusing on the subsidy amount for sidewalk work, variables on LeRay Street, equipment used for work and program strategy and options.

Mayor Graham suggested having some type of dual rate structure for the sidewalk program.

Council Member Smith suggested continuing with the special assessment districts.

Mrs. Corriveau reminded Council that the subsidy rate changed over time.

Council Members and staff discussed prices for sidewalk repairs and replacement.

Mrs. Corriveau told Council that the subsidy amount will come before Council in a Resolution.

Work Session ended at 10:30 p.m.

*Amanda C. Lewis*  
Deputy City Clerk

